



Successful AMBER Alert Recovery Stories

AMBER Alert Saves Lives

AMBER Alerts can prevent further tragedy from occurring when children are abducted by violent perpetrators.

May 24, 2005

Jonesboro, Arkansas

A 2-year-old girl and her mother were abducted at knifepoint by the child's non-custodial father. The suspect stabbed the child's mother, dropped her off along the highway, and took off with the child. An AMBER Alert was quickly issued. After hearing the AMBER Alert, the suspect dropped the child off with relatives. The relatives, who had also heard the AMBER Alert, immediately returned the child to authorities. The child was safely recovered.

August 1, 2002

Lancaster, CA

Sixteen-year-old Tamara Brooks and Jacqueline Marris, 17, were parked in a quiet area frequented by local teens with their male friends late at night in two separate cars. A man came out of the bushes and held all four teens at gunpoint. He tied up both boys and put the two girls into a car and sped off into the night. As soon as authorities were alerted and confirmed that the girls were in danger, an AMBER Alert was issued across the region. A description of the girls, suspect, vehicle and license plate number were broadcast over local airwaves and displayed on electronic highway signs. Soon after, an animal control agent called in identifying the car in which the girls were abducted. She had matched up the vehicle's license plate number with the information provided on the highway signs. Police were soon at the scene and the girls were safely recovered.

The Power of the Microphone

Some perpetrators release the abducted child after hearing the AMBER Alert on the radio or seeing it on television.

August 11, 2005

Battle Creek, Michigan

A 2-year-old boy was not returned to his mother after a visitation with his non-custodial father. Because the boy's father had recently been released from prison and is known to be involved with narcotics, an AMBER Alert was issued. The man heard the Alert and turned the child and himself into authorities. The child was safely recovered.

States Working Together to Recover Abducted Children

All 50 states have statewide AMBER Alert plans, and are working together to develop interstate agreements. This means that if one state issues an AMBER Alert but the child is abducted across state lines, other states will agree to issue an AMBER Alert.

May 7, 2003

St. Cloud, MN

An 11-year-old girl was reported missing by her mother when she awoke to find her gone, along with a 21-year-old man who had been staying with the family in search of work. Because of her age and the time and nature of her disappearance, the girl was believed to be in danger, and an AMBER Alert was issued. When authorities learned that the suspect had ties in Utah, an AMBER Alert was activated in Utah as well. A Utah Highway Patrol trooper heard the alert and began using his laptop to calculate the drive time from St. Cloud, Minnesota, to Utah when he saw a car matching the description in the AMBER Alert drive by. The trooper pulled the car over, arrested the suspect, and the girl was safely returned to her family.

November 24, 2003

Los Angeles, CA

A 4-year-old Hoffman Estates, Illinois, boy was abducted by his biological parents from his custodial grandmother. Because the parents had a history of child abuse, an AMBER Alert was issued. Sightings of the couple and child were reported over the next few days. A week after the abduction, authorities had reason to believe the suspects and child were in California. The California Highway Patrol issued a statewide AMBER Alert. The mother heard the Alert in California and turned herself in. The child was safely recovered.

AMBER Alerts on Highway Signs Help Recover Children

Astute motorists have helped law enforcement recover children when they have read AMBER Alerts posted on highway signs.

November 17, 2005

Hialeah, Florida

A 17-year-old girl was abducted by a 47-year-old sex offender. When law enforcement also found a suicide note from the suspect in his home, it was apparent that the child was in danger and an AMBER Alert was quickly issued. A motorist saw the AMBER Alert message on an electronic highway sign and realized that the suspected vehicle was driving in front of him. He quickly notified law enforcement, which arrived at the scene and safely recovered the child. The suspect fatally shot himself before he could be apprehended.